

Sacred Heart Parish



Sacred Heart Church ~ Blackheath
Saint Paul's Church ~ Mount Victoria
Saint Joseph's Church ~ Megalong Valley

As a community bonded together through faith,
we are called to share our experience of God with those we meet each day,
in particular, those in our local community.

*We acknowledge the Darug and Gundungurra people, the traditional custodians of this land
and pay our respects to the elders past and present.*

PARISH CONTACTS

Fr. John McSweeney (Parish Priest)

Fr. Peter Lamont (Asst Priest)

Postal Address: PO Box 354, Blackheath NSW

2785. 165 Wentworth Blackheath

Phone: (02) 4787 8540

Office Hours: 10pm-3pm Thursday

After Hours Emergency Number: 0490 814 284.

Calls only; no texts please.

For all Office matters, call (02) 4787 8540

Parish email address:

blackheath@parracatholic.org

Parish website:

sacredheartblackheath.org.au

Parish Facebook: [Sacred Heart Parish](#)

[Community Blackheath](#)

MT VICTORIA VIGIL MASS

Vigil Mass at 5.00pm (June-August)

6.00pm (Sept-May)

MEGALONG VALLEY MASS

4pm (every third Friday of the month).

Next Mass: 19 July 2024 at 4.00pm

BLACKHEATH MASSES

SUN: 9.30am.

WED; 9.00am

UPPER BLUE MOUNTAINS PARISH SUNDAY

MASSES

SAT: 5.00pm Leura (Vigil)

SUN: 8.00am Wentworth Falls

SUN: 10.00am Katoomba

Sun: 5.00pm Leura

BULLETIN ITEMS: Please contact the Parish

Office on Thursday's during office hours on
4787 8540 or email

blackheath@parracatholic.org or at

Katoomba on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and

Fridays on 02 4782 2804. email

bluemountains@parracatholic.org

SACRED HEART CARE GROUP: Helping

parishioners in times of need. Monica Bright

0420 937 690.

BLACKHEATH VINNIES Support: 0490 709 547

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL: If you would like
an issue discussed, please submit it in writing to
either Graham Beal

graham_beal@hotmail.com or Julie O'Keeffe

julesongodson@bigpond.com

The 16th Sunday in Ordinary time Year B 21 July 2024

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

Today's Gospel from Mark speaks of Jesus trying to take the Apostles away for a bit of R&R after their very successful Mission (last week's Gospel). But the crowds guess where Jesus is going, and reach the place before him. So he sets about preaching the Gospel, as they were like 'sheep without a shepherd'.

For me, this text reminds me that each and every one of us need to make certain that we take time to rest and recuperate after the busyness of work. Without such necessary 'time out; we are in danger of 'burn out'.

With the Christian lifestyle, we also need to spend time alone with the Lord, so our relationship with God can be renewed and strengthened. Without this our ministry can become hollow and superficial.

But the other point from the text is that when work arises, we cannot shirk our responsibilities. We have to remain faithful to our commitments, even if, at times, we would prefer to continue resting! For if we had one big holiday, we'd soon find ourselves asking for meaning in life!

Similarly, as Christians, we can't allow times of rest and renewal with the Lord to be used as an excuse to avoid practical ministry and care for others. This would be self-indulgence!

Prayer and religious devotion are not of value unless they issue forth in action. As one Scriptural Commentator (William Barclay) wrote:

"We must never seek the fellowship of God to avoid the fellowship of people, but to fit ourselves better for it. The rhythm of the Christian life is the alternative meeting with God in the secret place and serving people in the marketplace".

So, my friends, let's reflect on the movement in our lives: where is the emphasis? Is it on action? Is it on prayer and reflection? Is there a good balance between the two? Is there change needed in our attitudes and actions?

As always, let's ask our loving God for help and strength, for the grace of the Holy Spirit, so that we can put our reflections and resolutions into action!

Have a great week, everyone.

Let's continue praying for each other.

Fr John

Please mute your mobile at Mass.

Thank-you for your courtesy.



WHAT'S ON IN THE UPPER MOUNTAINS THIS WEEK

SATURDAY 20 July

Mass 5.00pm Mt Victoria.

SUNDAY 21 July

9.30 am Blackheath

MONDAY 22 July

Mass at 9.00am Katoomba

TUESDAY 23 July

Mass 9.00am Leura

WEDNESDAY 24 July

Mass 9.00am Blackheath

Cuppa's together: 9.30 - 12.00pm

Blackheath Community Kitchen-Garden 10-12pm.

THURSDAY 25 July

Mass 9.00am Wentworth Falls

FRIDAY 26 July

Mass 12pm Katoomba

SATURDAY 27 July

Mass 9am Katoomba

Confession after Mass

Blackheath Community Kitchen Garden 11-1pm

Mass 5.00pm Mt Victoria

Sunday 28 July

Mass 9.30am Blackheath

Accommodation Needed Urgently

A Small Catholic family is seeking urgent accommodation. If you can assist, please contact Fr Peter on : 0459 468 705

Mt Victoria 20 .07.2024

1 St Reader: Peter McAuley

2 nd Reader: Carla Eden

Sunday 21.07.2024

1 St Reader: Christa Buckley

2nd Reader: Christa Buckley

Welcome/Intercession: Paul Harris

Server: Diane Stewart

Church Care: Paul and Marilyn Rowe

Counters: Pamela and John

Flowers: David Buckley

Morning Tea: Monica and Brian Bright

Bpoint - Parish contributions using your credit card.

Bpoint is an easy way to contribute to both our 2nd collection (funds raised are for our Parish) and 1st collection (funds raised are for the clergy of the Diocese). You need a credit card (Visa or Mastercard only) and a mobile phone number. Please follow this link and make your choice of option. You will be asked to show your name and mobile phone number: <https://www.bpoint.com.au/pay/CATHOLICPARISHOFSACREDHEARTBLACKHEATH> .

As an alternative to following the link, you can also use the attached QR



Cuppa's on Wednesday after 9am Mass

Pop into the hall for a cuppa and company on Wednesday morning's from 9:30am- 12:00. Vinnie's assistance is available during this time, operating from the meeting room, and our Community Kitchen garden offers plants from the Plant Library, fresh produce and a time for connecting with our life-giving Earth. Join us in our growing buzzy hub on Wednesday's.



Catholic Church and Mission Discussion Group - Sacred Heart Parish Blackheath

This group, as a contribution to our ongoing formation as Catholics, comes together monthly to discuss important documents that impact our faith. Currently we are coming to terms with the relatively recent declaration of the Vatican on the infinite value of human dignity, *Dignitas Infinita*. Our next meeting will continue our progress through Section 4, which deals with list of "grave violations" current to our times. https://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc_dff_doc_20240402_dignitas-infinita_en.html.

Venue for the meeting will be **Parish Hall, Blackheath** (entry via 167 Wentworth Street). The meeting will be head **Saturday, 27 July, 3:00-4:30pm**. Please let us know to arrange a zoom connection if that suits better. Contact Clive Kanes (grossevalley@gmail.com)

Blackheath Theatre Company Use of Parish Hall - week commencing 22 July

The Blackheath Theatre Company will be using of our Parish Hall from the afternoon of Monday 22 July to Saturday 27 July. They will be performing 4 locally written and produced one act plays in the Hall on the evenings of 24, 25 and 26 July, with a matinee performance on the afternoon of 27 July. During this week there will be restricted access to the Hall and the Meeting room. Morning tea after Mass will go ahead as normal on Sunday 21 July and Sunday 28 July, but Cuppas on Wednesday 24 July will move up to the Church veranda. Tickets to the plays are available from the Blackheath Theatre Company website or from Century 21's office at 36 Govetts Leap Rd.

Sunday: 28.07.2024

1st Reader:
John Tweedie

2nd Reader:
Pamela Nash

Welcome/Intercession:
Eve McDonnell

Server: Pat Wicks

Morning Tea:
Christa and David Buckley

MARIST CAMINO - JULY 21

We invite you and your family to commemorate the first Marist Fourviere Pledge in France 1816 by joining this Marist Camino. Starting at Milsons Point with the acknowledgement of country, walking across the harbour bridge, lunch at St Patrick's Church Hill, travel via bus to Hunters Hill, and a final Fourviere liturgy at Holy Name of Mary. This is a FREE event. Go to www.maristlaityaustralia.com/fourviere for more information.

Vale Bishop Kevin Manning (2 November 1933 – 15 July 2024)

The Diocese of Parramatta mourns the death of Bishop Emeritus Kevin Manning, the second Bishop of Parramatta, who died peacefully on Monday 15 July in Bathurst, NSW, at the age of 90. The Diocese of Parramatta owes much to his leadership and vision, and we pray for the repose of his soul and give thanks to God for his earthly life. The details for Bishop Kevin Manning's funeral at St Patrick's Cathedral Parramatta will be announced in the coming days. Read more about Bishop Manning on Catholic Outlook (catholicoutlook.org).

Mass in the Megalong Friday Jul 19 4pm:

All are invited to gather at St Joseph's in the Megalong for the monthly Eucharist. A Liturgy of the Word with Communion will be led on this occasion due to Fr John's injury. This little church has a long history and is perfectly located in God's country! Afternoon tea is shared. All welcome

Please keep Fr John in your prayers as he recovers from surgery for a broken wrist.

Farewell Morning Tea:

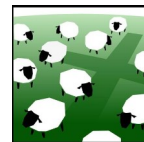
After 24 years in the parish and raising their beautiful family in Blackheath, Robyn and Adrian Carroll are moving to Mudgee. To say farewell (not goodbye) and wish them well, the Carroll's will be special guests for morning tea after Mass on Sunday 28 July.

THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION will be celebrated in September this year in Lawson, the Upper Blue Mountains and Sacred Heart Catholic Communities. Preparation commences with Parent Evenings at Lawson on 31st July and at Katoomba on 7th August.

If Your child has celebrated First Communion and is in years 5 and 6 or above, he /she will be eligible to enrol in the preparation program. If you wish your child to be included **an expression of interest will need to be made at olon254@gmail.com. As well as your child's name, school and grade your postal address is also needed to send you a letter and the enrolment form.**

Please note if your child celebrated First Communion at Lawson in 2021 or 2022, we already have your details and you will receive an invitation and enrolment form in the post. Maureen Ryan for the Lawson and Upper Mountains Sacramental Preparation Team olon254@gmail.com

***Jesus chose disciples to continue his work; he instructed them and empowered them. He sent them out on a mission, and they returned. People followed them, because they wanted to hear what Jesus and the disciples had to say; they wanted to be released from the sickness and the demons that possessed them.



There are so many searching people in the world today, people hungering for instruction, good people looking for direction. They may be parents who are sick with grief over the future of a troubled child; a man stripped of his dignity through unemployment; a woman facing a pregnancy alone; elderly people feeling the surge of life leave their declining bodies; people who are angry and confused because they believe that the church is no longer dependable. They are people who are looking for answers and for meaning. They are like sheep without a shepherd, and Jesus looks to us to shepherd them.

In the midst of this confusion, there are reliable shepherds who walk with us in the dark valleys. They are willing to share the dangers through which we pass, even at the risk of their own safety. They do not pit one segment of the community or one theological perspective against another, scattering the sheep and driving them away. Instead, they work to dismantle the walls that divide us. They speak the word that gathers us together. They reconcile us with God and with each other. They may not give us easy answers, but their primary concern is to lead us to Jesus, the one who is our peace.

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Catalyst Reflection Session—20 July

Br. Barry Donaghue is offering something quite unique as he leads us to ponder a line of the Jewish scripture that speaks that humankind has been created in the image and likeness of God. How has that played out in your life?

Hopefully you can join in the reflection and conversation on Saturday, July 20, 9:30am at Santa Maria Hall, Lawson.

Happy Birthday July

- 19th Christa Buckley
- 27th Laurie Noyes (Lawrence)
- 28th Ron O'Brien
- 31st Ingeborg Caplice (David's wife)



Please Pray For the Sick and Their Carers: Fr John, Connie Adams, Marie Bowrey, Jeff Thurlow, Maria Cora, Connie Adams, Josephine Burdett, Ray Wood, Paddy Dowling, Beverley Bateup, Alice Lonergan, Anne Farindon, John Crowley, Maria Johnson, Trennah Portelli,

REST IN PEACE July: Ben O'Brien, 1st James Keith Johnston, 5th Matthew Gregan, 6th Annie Cecilia Smith (Kate Forbes' grandmother), 8th Alma Birrell (d 2015), 9th Cecily O'Brien, 12th John Forster (d 2014 – aged 66), 18th Keith Malkin, 18th Fr Alex Sciberras.

18th Ray Lee (d 2014), 19th John Briggs (d 2006), 20th Monica van Horen (d 2014), 22nd Nikola Sandor, 23rd Bert Carlon, 24th David Ridoutt (d 2009), 25th Jean Pye, 28th Eric Perriam (d 2007 – Tony Perriam's father),



Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

ENTRANCE

See, I have God for my help.
The Lord sustains my soul.
I will sacrifice to you with willing heart,
and praise your name, O Lord, for it is good.

First Reading.

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah (Jeremiah 23:1-6)

‘Doom for the shepherds who allow the flock of my pasture to be destroyed and scattered – it is the Lord who speaks!

This, therefore, is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says about the shepherds in charge of my people: You have let my flock be scattered and go wandering and have not taken care of them. Right, I will take care of you for your misdeeds – it is the Lord who speaks!

But the remnant of my flock I myself will gather from all the countries where I have dispersed them, and will bring them back to their pastures: they shall be fruitful and increase in numbers. I will raise up shepherds to look after them and pasture them; no fear, no terror for them any more; not one shall be lost – it is the Lord who speaks!

‘See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks

–
when I will raise a virtuous Branch for David, who will reign as true king and be wise, practising honesty and integrity in the land.

In his days Judah will be saved
and Israel dwell in confidence.

And this is the name he will be called:

The Lord-our-integrity.’

This was to create one single New Man in himself out of the two of them and by restoring peace through the cross, to unite them both in a single Body and reconcile them with God.

In his own person he killed the hostility.

Later he came to bring the good news of peace, peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near at hand.

Through him, both of us have in the one Spirit our way to come to the Father.

ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord;

I know them, and they follow me.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark (Mark 6:30-34)

The apostles rejoined Jesus and told him all they had done and taught. Then he said to them, ‘You must come away to some lonely place all by yourselves and rest for a while’; for there were so many coming and going that the apostles had no time even to eat.

So they went off in a boat to a lonely place where they could be by themselves.

But people saw them going, and many could guess where; and from every town they all hurried to the place on foot and reached it before them.

So as he stepped ashore he saw a large crowd; and he took pity on them because they were like sheep without a shepherd, and he set himself to teach them at some length

RESPONSE

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Second Reading .

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians (Ephesians 2:13-18)

In Christ Jesus, you that used to be so far from us have been brought very close, by the blood of Christ.

For he is the peace between us, and has made the two into one and broken down the barrier which used to keep them apart, actually destroying in his own person the hostility caused by the rules and decrees of the Law.

COMMUNION

Behold, I stand at the door and knock, says the Lord.

If anyone hears my voice and opens the door to me,

I will enter his house and dine with him, and he with me.